

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A fuel dispensing system comprising:
a fuel dispenser for dispensing fuel to a customer in response to an authorization signal;
a control system for securing said authorization signal from an authorization network and for providing said authorization signal to said fuel dispenser based on determined authorization information from the authorization network, said control system comprising a security module;
a card reader adapted to encrypt an account number information received from a customer's card and send the encrypted account number information to the control system, said security module decrypting the account number information received from the card reader; and
an indicia entry device that receives an input verification indicia from the customer associated with said account number information, wherein said authorization signal is generated in response to verification of said verification indicia.
2. (Original) The fuel dispensing system of claim 1 wherein said card reader is a smart card reader.
3. (Original) The fuel dispensing system of claim 1 wherein said card reader is a magnetic card reader.
4. (Previously Presented) The fuel dispensing system of claim 1 wherein the indicia entry device is a keypad module.
5. (Original) The fuel dispensing system of claim 4 wherein said keypad module is an encrypting keypad module.
6. (Original) The fuel dispensing system of claim 5 wherein said encrypting keypad module sends PIN information to said security module in an encrypted format.
7. (Currently Amended) The fuel dispensing system of claim 1 wherein said security module re-encrypts the account number information prior to sending the account number information to the authorization network.

8. (Original) The fuel dispensing system of claim 1 wherein the card reader is housed within a tamper-resistant enclosure.
9. (Original) The fuel dispensing system of claim 1 wherein the card reader is integrated into said fuel dispenser.
10. (Original) The fuel dispensing system of claim 1 wherein said control system is a site controller operatively associated with a plurality of like said fuel dispensers and adapted to enable respective ones of said fuel dispensers.
11. (Original) The fuel dispensing system of claim 1 wherein said security module provides encryption key information to said card reader.
12. (Currently Amended) The fuel dispensing system of claim 11 wherein said encryption key information is used by the card reader to encrypt said account number information and by the security module to decrypt said encrypted account number information.
13. (Original) The fuel dispensing system of claim 11 wherein said security module provides said encryption key information to said card reader using an encryption key exchange (EKE) algorithm.
14. (Currently Amended) A card reader module for authorizing a transaction comprising:
 - a card interface adapted to read an account number information from a payment card;
 - an encryption module adapted to encrypt the account number information;
 - a communications module adapted to communicate with a site controller and pass the encrypted account number information thereto such that a security module associated with the site controller decrypts the encrypted account number information; and
 - an indicia entry device that receives an input verification indicia from the customer associated with the account number information to determine if the transaction for the account number information is authorized.

15. (Original) The card reader module of claim 14 wherein said card reader module is a smart card reader adapted to interface with a smart card.

16. (Original) The card reader module of claim 14 wherein said card reader module is a magnetic card reader adapted to interface with a magnetic card.

17. (Original) The card reader module of claim 14 wherein said card reader module is adapted to be integrated into a fuel dispenser thereby allowing a control system associated with the fuel dispenser to obtain authorization for a fueling transaction.

18. (Original) The card reader module of claim 14 wherein said card reader module is enclosed by a tamper-resistant housing.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of securely collecting an account number information from a customer's payment card, comprising:

interfacing with a customer payment card using a card reader to collect an account number information therefrom;

receiving an input verification indicia associated with the account number information from a customer via an indicia entry device;

encrypting the account number information;

sending the encrypted account number information from the card reader to a site controller; and

decrypting the encrypted account number information with a security module associated with the site controller.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein interfacing with a customer payment card comprises interfacing with a magnetic customer payment card.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein interfacing with a customer payment card comprises interfacing with a smart card customer payment card.

22. (Original) The method of claim 19 further comprising sending encrypted PIN information from an encrypting keypad to the site controller.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19 wherein the security module re-encrypts the account number information prior to sending it to an authorization network.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23 wherein the security module encrypts a PIN with the account number information.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for providing secure account number information transmission comprising:

providing a tamper-resistant housing for a card reader;

receiving an input verification indicia associated with the account number information via an indicia entry device;

encrypting account number information sent from the card reader; and

decrypting the account number information with a security module at a site controller.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25 further comprising providing an encryption key to the card reader.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein providing an encryption key comprises providing an encryption key using an encryption key exchange (EKE) algorithm.

28. (Original) The method of claim 25 further comprising integrating the card reader into a fuel dispenser.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28 further comprising sending encrypted PIN information from the fuel dispenser to a site controller.

30. (Previously Presented) The fuel dispensing system of claim 1 wherein said indicia entry device is an encrypting keypad module.
31. (Previously Presented) The fuel dispensing system of claim 1 wherein said input verification indicia is a PIN and said indicia entry device is a keypad.
32. (Previously Presented) The fuel dispensing system of claim 1 wherein said indicia entry device and said card reader are each housed within a separate, tamper-resistant enclosure.
33. (Previously Presented) The fuel dispensing system of claim 1 wherein said indicia entry device and said card reader are both integrated into said fuel dispenser.
34. (Previously Presented) The card reader module of claim 14 wherein said indicia entry device is an encrypting keypad module.
35. (Previously Presented) The card reader module of claim 14 wherein said verification indicia is a PIN and said indicia entry device is a keypad.